

Mark Jones
President
NC Federation of Republican Assemblies

January 8, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

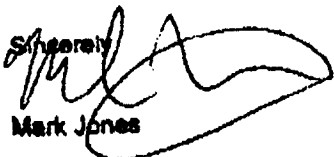
Dear Ms. Hesse,

I would like to endorse the settlement between the federal government and Microsoft because the quicker this issue is resolved because I believe it is the fastest way for the federal government to end its involvement with this case. As leader of a group of conservative Republicans in North Carolina, we believe that citizens—and particularly their businesses—are best served with the government as little involved as possible. I am also happy to see that the state of North Carolina has decided to withdraw its lawsuit against Microsoft.

For the last several years, I have served on the Board of Education in Davie County, North Carolina. During that time, I have gotten a close view of the workings of state and local government plus some activity by the courts. This service has only strengthened my conviction that schools as well as companies do better without government intervention. It is better for students when control and discipline in the classroom is a responsibility of the teacher working with the principal.

In much the same way, I feel that companies such as Microsoft do best when left alone by either the state or federal government and when their manager and stockholders are allowed to call the shots. That is why I endorse the settlement as a way to return to that situation quicker.

I understand that in a settlement that both sides will get something and also give up something, and that is as it should be. I hope that Judge Kollar-Kotelly will agree and sign this settlement.

Sincerely,

Mark Jones

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